

Amendments to the Specification

The paragraphs starting at page 3, line 16 and ending at page 4, line 19 have been amended as follows.

Other methods for enhancing the color saturation and the image fastness propose using a reaction liquid that reacts with color inks containing colorants to make the colorants insoluble or coagulate. For example, Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 56-89595 discloses a method which applies a polymer solution, such as carboxymethyl cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl acetate, to the print medium before printing and then prints coloring inks. Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. ~~63-29971~~ 63-299971 discloses a method that involves applying to a print medium a liquid containing an organic compound having two or more cationic groups in one molecule and then printing coloring inks containing anionic dye. Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 64-9279 discloses a method that first applies an acidic liquid containing succinic acid to a print medium and then prints coloring inks. Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 64-63185 describes a method that applies to a print medium a liquid that makes a dye insoluble, before printing coloring inks containing the dye. Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 5-202328 describes a method which applies a reaction liquid containing polyvalent metal ion before printing coloring inks.

Further, Japanese Patent Application Laid-open Nos. 6-106841, ~~9-11850~~ 9-118850, 11-334101 and 11-343441, and US Patent Nos. 5,428,383, 5,488,402 and 5,976,230 disclose a set of a black ink and color inks in which at least one of the color inks exhibits a

mutual reactivity with the black ink, with other inks showing no reactivity with the black ink.

The paragraph starting at page 12, line 8 and ending at line 15 has been amended as follows.

A second aspect of the present invention is an ink jet printing apparatus for printing by ejecting an ink containing a colorant from a print head, comprising: an ink absorber for absorbing the ink discharged from the print head; and an application means for applying a coagulation inhibitor to the ink absorber, the coagulation inhibitor inhibiting a coagulation of the colorant contained in the ink.

The header at page 15, line 4 has been amended as follows.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE ~~INVENTION~~ INVENTION

The paragraph starting at page 55, line 25 and ending at page 56, line 5 has been amended as follows.

The present invention has been described in detail with respect to preferred embodiments, and it will now be apparent from the foregoing to those skilled in the art that changes and modifications may be made without departing from the invention in its broader aspect aspects, and it is the intention, therefore, in that the appended claims to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit of the invention.